



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Stamas, Elsenheimer announce I-75 overpass projects a 'go'

Transportation project will mean economic stimulation and job opportunities for Gaylord

LANSING – Legislative Republicans today announced an agreement has been reached with the governor's office to restore or advance transportation projects that will provide jobs and economic opportunities for many communities statewide, including northern Michigan.

The projects include congestion relief, safety improvements, public transportation initiatives and recreational facilities. The agreement includes \$2.4 million in additional funding and proposes the state provide the local match for overpasses in Gaylord to improve the difficulties of east-west mobility in the area.

Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire, said the \$2.4 million earmarked for the Gaylord overpasses is good news for Gaylord because it will have a significant impact on the community's economy.

"This is an exciting and substantial development for Otsego County," said Stamas, vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "The local task force has put endless hours into securing federal money for this project. Bringing state dollars to this project has been a priority for me and I am elated to see that come to fruition."

Elsenheimer concurred: "This funding agreement is another step we can take to make the former Georgia-Pacific plant property more attractive for redevelopment and should also greatly relieve M-32 traffic congestion in Gaylord as well. It's taken several attempts to get this local need recognized by the state, even though federal funding has been earmarked. I'm glad it's finally moving forward so community growth and job creation is no longer impeded by obstacles to transporting local goods and services."

The agreement will provide additional state dollars for construction of an overpass at the Milbocker-McCoy and I-75 as well as an overpass at Wisconsin-Van Tyle and I-75.

"Today's announcement is about driving job creation in Michigan and paving the way for growth all across our state," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said. "From going anywhere and doing anything to attract jobs to Michigan, to investing in the infrastructure that supports commerce, we have a targeted economic road map, and it's moving Michigan in the right direction."

Lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for these projects in the next few weeks.

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